



Annual Report 2005



Members

Mike Black, Chair

Jasper, TN
Represents conservation organizations

Bill Williams, Vice-Chair

Newport, TN
Represents hardwood manufacturers

Eddie Paschall, Secretary

Gordonsville, TN
Represents owners of less than 500 acres

Jim Carpenter

Counce, TN
Represents pulp and paper manufacturers

Paul Trianosky

Mountain City, TN
Represents owners of less than 500 acres

James W. Reeves

Stanton, TN
Represents Public at Large

John Ross

Savannah, TN
Represents owners of greater than 500 acres

Ken Givens, Ex-Officio

Commissioner -Tennessee Department of Agriculture

Gary T. Myers, Ex-Officio

Director - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Jim Fyke, Ex-Officio

Commissioner - Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Forestry Commission Duties and Functions

The Tennessee Forestry Commission was established by the legislature under TCA 11-4-201 to:

1. Nominate candidates for state forester
2. Review, approve and submit the annual budget of the Forestry Division to the Commissioner of Agriculture
3. Make an annual report to the governor, commissioner and the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee
4. Recommend to the General Assembly legislation to protect, conserve and develop the forest resources of the state
5. Approve the Division's comprehensive long-range plan for the state's forest resources
6. Establish state forestry policies that will enable the Division to manage its programs
7. Include in budget recommendations those goals and objectives necessary to implement state forestry policies

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

During 2005 the Division of Forestry:

- ✓ Filled key positions for Data and Technology Unit Leader, Environmental Affairs and Outreach Unit Leader, Forest Business Program Specialist, Forest Health Program Specialist, Forest Resource Management Program Specialist, Fire Operations Program Specialist, Forest Management Program Specialist, and State Forest Program Specialist;
- ✓ Completed more than 900 forest inventory and analysis plots (FIA), including a first-time assessment of urban forest resources through a pilot project in partnership with the USDA Forest Service;
- ✓ Developed or initiated new databases and data entry software to capture field level data on water quality, landowner assistance and fire suppression programs;
- ✓ Responded to hurricane Katrina and Rita recovery and relief efforts in September and October with 29 personnel and two fire plow units for debris removal and relief center management while continuing fire suppression at home;
- ✓ Responded to requests for fire support and assistance in Texas and Oklahoma beginning in December and continuing through February during record drought conditions with 60 employees and 8 fire plow units for the protection of lives, property and communities;
- ✓ Completed deployment of 112 new tractor plow units and transports to field locations;
- ✓ Implemented a work capacity test for current and new employees with fire line responsibilities;
- ✓ Led the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Task Force, the first multi-agency task force to address forest pests on state owned lands. The task force may serve as a response model for future pest outbreaks on state lands, and subsequent suppression efforts;
- ✓ Completed a review of the Division's water quality program with the assistance of the Southern Group of State Foresters, Water Quality Committee;
- ✓ Developed operational procedures to address visual quality guidelines for forestry operations;
- ✓ Acquired four Forest Legacy tracts totaling 2,076 acres at a market value of \$1.8 million;
- ✓ Implemented a new federal allocation funding formula for urban forestry program assistance designed to capture community level data for input into the national, regional, and state allocation formulas;
- ✓ Developed an agreement with the USDA Farm Services Agency for the purchase of 2006 statewide color and color IR photography;
- ✓ Resumed publishing the familiar Forest Products Bulletin under the direction of a new Forest Business Unit Leader

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION UNIT

The mission of the Forest Resource Protection Unit is to *reduce losses from wildfires and forest pests, and to prevent water quality degradation from forestry sources.* The Forest Resource Protection Unit administers the Division's Fire Protection, Forest Health, and Water Quality programs.

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION

Mission: Minimize damage caused by wildfire to forest resources and personal property while giving priority to firefighter safety.

The Division protects forest resources from destructive fire so the intrinsic benefits of the state's forests can be utilized. It does this by preventing and suppressing wildfires, promoting hazard reduction activities, and supporting wildland fire training for volunteer fire departments and other wildland firefighters. The highest priority of this program is firefighter and public safety.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Suppressed 2,073 forest fires that burned 24,744 acres
- Issued 442,257 burn permits
- Provided 112 fire assistance grants to volunteer fire departments totaling \$255,790
- Assisted Cumberland Lake in Cumberland County with a Firewise Community grant of \$7,795 to reduce their risk of loss to wildfire
- Trained 1,315 volunteer firefighters in basic wildfire suppression
- Conducted basic wildfire training for 24 new Division fire fighters at the state Academy
- Provided 1,406 teachers with Tennessee Wildfire Prevention material in 14 workshops
- Distributed several hundred training videos to VFDs about fighting fire in the wildland urban interface
- Hosted 6 Firewise workshops, over 188 homeowners and community leaders attended
- Established wildfire fighting task forces in Campbell, Roane, Sevier and Monroe Counties with over \$38,000 in grant funds
- Activated 22 fire fighters to western fires assigned to overhead positions, 36 personnel and 2 fire plow units filled hurricane resource orders; 40 fire fighters and 4 fire plow units were sent on Southeastern Forest Fire Compact assignments
- Completed the 5-year cycle USFS Cooperative Fire Program Review
- Received and put into service new dozers and transports (112 units)
- Completed writing specifications and purchasing of Type VI slip-on pumper units
- Filled Fire Program Specialist position

Ongoing activities

- Conduct wildfire training and incident command system courses
- Assist communities in the Wildland/Urban Interface through the Firewise USA program to reduce possible loss to wildfire

Planned activities for 2006

- Implement National Fire Danger Rating System and fire report program
- Receive 51 Type VI slip-on pumpers and put into service, and train personnel in operation
- Implement a Fire Prevention program targeting adults

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

Mission: Minimize forest resource losses caused by forest pests through effective prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, and technical assistance measures.

The Division is endeavoring to meet the constant challenges in the Forest Health arena. The difficulty of managing forest pests has been made more complicated by the ever-increasing number of native and non-native forest pests. Coordination with other agencies and interest groups is becoming a critical part of the Division's response.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Managed the gypsy moth detection, delimiting, and eradication programs involving 15,457 traps in 93 counties and one aerial spray project covering 5,734 acres in Claiborne County
- Eradicated one existing gypsy moth infestation in Monroe County, leaving three remaining infestations in Campbell, Claiborne, and Cumberland Counties
- Reduced numbers of moths caught. The number of new moths entering the state has not been above expected baseline amounts of 50 to 100 per year.
- Led the hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) Task Force to develop strategic and management plans for control of the adelgid on state-owned lands
- Surveyed 18 counties for hemlock woolly adelgid presence, resulting in discovery of 3 new infested counties, bringing the total to 14 counties
- Conducted three forest insect and disease training sessions for 76 division personnel
- Surveyed 20 nursery sites and 10 general high-risk forest sites for sudden oak death. A total of 247 samples were taken, all which tested negative for this disease
- Surveyed 30 previously established dogwood anthracnose plots for disease presence and tree mortality in upper East Tennessee
- Detected the presence of beech bark disease for the first time in Tennessee outside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the Cherokee National Forest in Carter County
- Conducted southern pine beetle trapping and predicted declining and low population levels in Rhea, Marion, Wayne, and Chester Counties
- Surveyed for emerald ash borer around 10 mid-state cities

Ongoing activities

- Monitor for pests such as gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, and southern pine beetle
- Train Division field employees, and partner agencies on insect and disease issues
- Monitor for new pests such as sudden oak death, emerald ash borer, Asian long-horned beetle, and beech bark disease
- Assist in the management of forest pests on state forests
- Administer federal grants for the management of forest pests
- Keep abreast of additional new introductions of forest pests in Tennessee

Planned activities for 2006

- Develop gypsy moth strategic plan
- Develop protocols for Slow-The-Spread program for gypsy moth
- Fund a technician position at the University of Tennessee HWA predator beetle-rearing lab

FOREST RESOURCE PROTECTION - WATER QUALITY

Mission: Protect waters of Tennessee from degradation attributable to forest practices.

The Division of Forestry works to ensure that forest practices are carried out in a manner that do not harm the state's water resources. The Water Quality program involves prevention, education, training, monitoring, responding to complaints and assisting TDEC Water Pollution Control (WPC) with complaint resolution.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Conducted the Division's first water quality program review
- Participated in the first use of a Stop Work Order issued by WPC
- Investigated 113 complaints, 12 of which were joint investigations with WPC
- Furnished technical advice in pre-harvest planning on 34 logging sites
- Made 614 logger contacts
- Assisted WPC in issuing 21 Notices of Violation, 2 Director's Orders, 1 Commissioner's Order and 1 Stop Work Order
- Provided instruction for 5 master logger (5 day) classes for 108 attendees
- Held 19 continuing education classes with 502 persons attending

Ongoing activities

- Conduct Master Logger training and associated continuing education
- Provide best management practices (BMP) training for Division personnel
- Investigate water quality complaints associated with forestry practices
- Provide courtesy checks to assess BMPs for ongoing harvesting operations
- Contact loggers to address questions on BMP implementation and application

Planned activities for 2006

- Implement web based reporting system
- Conduct BMP implementation survey
- Develop portable bridge demonstration

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The Mission of the Forest Resource Management Unit is to *promote and advance sustainable forest management on non-industrial private forestlands for the multiple uses and benefits provided by forested landscapes*. The Forest Resource Management Unit administers the Division's Landowner Assistance and Forest Legacy programs.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - FOREST LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Mission: Encourage and assist landowners to implement forest management practices that yield healthy, productive forests.

The landowner assistance program provides technical assistance, forest planning assistance, cost-share assistance, forest health assessments and a variety of forestry information to private, non-industrial forest landowners. We assist landowners in achieving their management objectives. A program specialist position was filled in 2005 completing the needed staffing of this TDF Unit.

Major Accomplishments for 2005

- Filled Forest Management Program Specialist vacancy
- Wrote 152 Forest Stewardship plans addressing 29,026 acres
- Certified 30 Forest Stewardship plans representing 14,168 acres
- Wrote 788 other forestry plans encompassing 45,850 acres
- Wrote 492 prescription plans covering 19,113 acres
- Planted 10,049 acres with trees
- Assisted 98 landowners in hardwood forest planning on 4,859 acres
- Provided 1,991 landowners with on-the-ground forest management technical assistance
- Assisted 7,717 other citizens with general forestry information & advice
- Developed a program to report Division landowner assistance accomplishments
- Signed MOUs with the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative
- Established contracts with the University of Tennessee Extension and with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to promote and provide technical assistance for the Forest Stewardship Program
- Partnered with the University of Tennessee Extension to provide natural hardwood regeneration training for Division field personnel

Ongoing activities

- Maintain and revise landowner reporting system
- Offer continuing education opportunities for field personnel
- Administer federal and state grants and cost-share programs
- Coordinate multi-agency participation in Division resource management programs
- Develop materials and resources to assist in communicating with landowners

Planned activities for 2006

- Provide artificial hardwood regeneration training for field personnel
- Develop new Forest Stewardship Plan format and electronic plan-writer
- Survey forest landowners to determine their awareness of forestry issues
- Implement forest planning delivery system for large acreage landowners
- Develop Rapid Forest Health Assessment Report protocols
- Establish GIS mapping standards

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - FOREST LEGACY

Mission: Protect environmentally important, private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.

The Forest Legacy Program identifies and protects environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Program emphasis is to maintain well-managed, working forests on the landscape. Since initial involvement in 2000, fee simple and permanent conservation easement purchases now total 19,272 acres valued at \$22 million. Over half of the \$22 million land value (\$11.6 million) was funded with federal Legacy grant money.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Purchased 4 separate tracts of land totaling 2,076 acres valued at \$1.8 million
- Submitted 2,700 additional acres worth 2.7 million for 2007 grant year
- Improved project grading and ranking process

Ongoing activities

- Manage real estate transactions on all pending projects
- Monitor Conservation Easements for deed compliance
- Promote, develop, grade and rank new project proposals
- Develop applicable GIS layers to help with updating program Assessment of Needs document

Planned activities for 2006

- Finish the 5 year update of Tennessee Assessment of Needs
- Close funded tracts from 2003-2006 totaling 19,000 acres of land valued at 14 million dollars
- Verify baseline monitoring system is thorough and efficient
- Partner with other agencies to develop high quality projects for 2008

URBAN FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the Urban Forest Resource Management Unit is to *assist and encourage municipalities and private urban landowners to improve and maintain urban forest resources.*

Urban forestry emphasizes the important role trees play in communities: from the many intangible benefits to the economic benefits of air pollution abatement, heat island mitigation, and storm water runoff reduction. To attain these benefits, the urban forestry program strives to provide assistance to Tennessee's cities and towns, where the majority of the population lives. Urban Forestry impacts people where they live.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Completed the 2003 urban and community forestry grants
- Awarded nine local utilities Tree Line USA status
- Provided assistance in 4 projects to the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council
- Recognized 31 Communities across Tennessee as Tree City USA
- Initiated the 2005 grants program that awarded 26 grants totaling \$302,149
- Completed an Arbor Day Poster Contest for approx. 1200 5th graders in 38 schools
- Completed ReLeaf for approx. 65,000 4th graders in all 95 counties
- Hosted ISA's Tree Climbing Championship for Arborists. Ellington "Welcomed the World"
- Completed initial assessment of communities regarding their status in meeting the 4 program elements in accordance with the National Allocation Formula
- Continued oversight of 34 grants from the 2004 urban forestry grants program
- Provided assistance to 50 Tennessee communities
- Provided assistance to 42 green industry entities that impact the urban forest
- Provided 39 teaching and training programs totaling 1236 seat hours
- Hosted the State Arbor Day ceremony with Crossville and Cumberland County

Ongoing activities

- Continue providing assistance to Tennessee cities and towns
- Review cities' status in meeting the 4 elements of the National Allocation Formula
- Administer the Tree City USA & Tree Line USA programs
- Complete the 2004 Urban Forestry grants & monitor ongoing 2005 grants
- Coordinate Arbor Day Poster Contest & State Arbor Day Ceremony
- Provide assistance to the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council as needed
- Launch the 2006 Urban and Community Forestry grants
- Update and maintain the State Champion Trees register
- Assist the pilot urban forest inventory & analysis project

Planned activities for 2006

- Update program strategic plan
- Complete a second panel of urban FIA plots & a companion city/canopy study

STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

The mission of the State Forest Management Unit is to provide for the multiple use management of all resources on State Forest lands such that those resources are utilized in the combination that best meets the long-term needs of the people of Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry administers 15 state forests totaling 164,032 acres based on multiple-use and sustainable forest principals. The forests are quite varied, ranging from mountain coves to cedar glades to bottomlands along the Mississippi.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Created and filled 4 State Forest Supervisor positions
- Filled vacant State Forest Forester and Program Specialist positions
- Created a new State Forest Forester position for Bledsoe/Franklin Forests
- Completed the purchase of the Beecham and McGlothlin properties as additions to Natchez Trace and Prentice Cooper State Forests
- Completed retracement of 16 miles of state forest boundary
- Completed third-year FSC assessment. Over 75% of the SFI standards are being met on state forest. Implementation of a forest level inventory is the primary standard not yet met to be ready for a SFI third-party assessment
- Completed a land acquisition plan for the state forest system in conjunction with a statewide plan developed for the new Conservation Heritage Foundation Act funds
- Completed 6 Compartment Plans
- Completed timber harvest of approximately 6 million board feet of timber on 558 acres that generated revenue of \$1,689,331
- Completed the state forest GIS system base map information and is being updated as new information is available
- Completed the timber sale tracking system and entered current and past timber sales information

Ongoing activities

- Meet timber sale revenue goal of \$1.85 million
- Maintain FSC certification
- Prepare for SFI third-party audit
- Conduct TDEC biological assessment of Franklin Forest
- Conduct landtype mapping of Chuck Swan

Planned activities for 2006

- Complete the development of forest inventory system
- Complete MOU with TWRA and associated rules changes
- Provide orientation and training for new hires
- Complete 8 compartment plans
- Hold 3 state forest field days in collaboration with UT Extension

REFORESTATION UNIT

The mission of the Reforestation Unit is to *provide quality, affordable seedlings (genetically improved where feasible) to Tennessee landowners and optimize genetic improvements to increase the productivity of the state's forest resource.*

REFORESTATION - SEEDLING NURSERY

Mission: To provide high quality conifer and hardwood seedlings to the state's landowners at a competitive price.

The Division of Forestry's seedling nursery, located in Delano, TN, produces seedlings that are available for sale to landowners in Tennessee. These seedlings are adapted to growing conditions found in Tennessee and are used primarily for reforestation and conservation projects. Approximately half of the 75 acres available for seedling production at the nursery are used for this purpose each year. The remaining seedbed area is planted in cover crops each year to ensure the long-term productivity of the nursery soil.

Major Accomplishments for 2005

- Produced 10.5 million seedlings during the 2004 summer growing season. Decreased demand and cancellation of the Southern Pine Beetle Initiative resulted in only 7 million seedlings being sold and distributed to landowners for planting.
- Produced 8.5 million seedlings during the 2005 summer growing season for distribution to landowners during the 2006 winter planting season
- Developed and implemented new hardwood seedling grading standards
- Produced large diameter hardwood seedlings that were made available to landowners primarily as a way to increase reforestation success on sites where intense competition from established woody vegetation is expected
- Refined techniques for weed control in hardwood seedbeds using existing and newly registered herbicides
- Developed and implemented a Seedling Customer Satisfaction Survey (satisfaction rating of approximately 80% was achieved)

Ongoing activities

- Develop and refine techniques for nursery cultural practices that will enhance seedling quality
- Develop techniques that will improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of the nursery program

Planned activities for 2006

- Develop and implement plans to increase seedling sales and corresponding revenue
- Construct a new seedling cold storage building and loading dock for West Tennessee to replace the aging facility currently in use at the Pinson Reforestation Center
- Develop a new computer program better suited to handle accounting and seedling inventory control needs

REFORESTATION - TREE IMPROVEMENT

Mission: To genetically improve the forest plantations of Tennessee through a program of breeding, testing, selection, and orchard management for important tree species; and to provide the state nursery with genetically improved seed from these orchards.

The Division's Tree Improvement specialists manage over 220 acres of seed orchards and over 214 acres of progeny tests at various locations around the state. Currently, we are actively working with 7 hardwood and 4 conifer tree species. Tennessee is also a member of the North Carolina State University – Industry Cooperative Tree Improvement Program. Membership allows accelerated breeding and establishment of genetically superior seed orchards. Seed produced from these orchards is used to grow seedlings tailored for survival and fast growth on Tennessee's landscape.

Major Accomplishments for 2005

- Collected pine cones and acorns in the first operational harvests of the white pine and sawtooth oak seed orchards at the East Tennessee Nursery
- Harvested sawtooth oak and improved walnut seed from Pinson orchards
- Processed cones collected from 4 white pine seed orchards to obtain 180 pounds of improved white pine seed for future use in the seedling nursery
- Planted 100% of all trees available for seed orchards
- Propagated 100% of assigned genetic selections
- Maintained 90% of seed orchards

Ongoing activities

- Continue tree breeding programs and genetic improvement of tree seed
- Continue establishment of the 3rd Cycle loblolly pine seed orchard located at the Pinson Reforestation Complex (PRC)

Planned activities for 2006

- Remove or thin the 1.0 generation loblolly pine seed orchards at the PRC
- Thin the 1.5 generation loblolly pine orchards at the PRC
- Install 1st phase of the new loblolly pine progeny test at the PRC

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY UNIT

The mission of the Forest Data and Technology Unit is to *facilitate the development and utilization of technology to meet the needs of our core businesses*. The Forest Data and Technology Unit has the responsibility to implement state of the art technology, manage and compile data, and administer the Division's Forest Inventory and Analysis and Geographic Information Systems programs.

The Forest Data and Technology Unit is charged with the task of seeking out and implementing relevant technology. The Unit is also responsible for maintaining relevant databases and presenting data in a format for further analysis. Critical work areas include updating information systems and getting new mapping and remote sensing technology into the hands of field personnel. Adopting such technology will lead to better communications, increased efficiency, and strengthened credibility.

Major accomplishments in 2005

- Filled new Data & Technology Unit Leader position (September 2005)
- Connected four DSL lines in facilities with limited internet service
- Partnered with other federal and state agencies for statewide digital aerial remote sensing coverage
- Supported development of Excel based Landowner Assistance Program data collection system
- Initiated internet based water quality data collection system

Ongoing activities

- Continue to upgrade all data collection and information systems
- Identify a mapping program for field use
- Establish DSL Connections at applicable field locations
- Continue training employees on GPS, GIS and mapping programs

Planned activities for 2006

- Finalize internet based water quality data collection system
- Investigate feasibility of an automated burn permit system
- Facilitate development of nursery inventory program
- Facilitate development of Forest Stewardship plan writer and integrated GIS boundary locations
- Support State Forest program in continued development of compartment databases
- Provide area forester offices with data for use with Wisconsin's fGIS system

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY - FOREST INVENTORY ANALYSIS

Mission: Collect data used to characterize changes in Tennessee's forest resource.

The Division works with the USDA Forest Service to produce periodic reports of the condition of Tennessee's forest. Some 4,600 plots statewide must be accurately measured at regular intervals to provide the data needed, with 20% of the plots scheduled for each year. Information from this data is used to qualify and quantify Tennessee's forest resource.

Major accomplishments in 2005

- Measured 817 Phase 2 Forest Inventory plots
- Measured 57 Phase 3 Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Measured 54 Urban Forest Health Monitoring plots
- Measured 40 Ozone Monitoring Plots
- Trained 2 Foresters for Certification
- Trained 8 Foresters for P3 data collection
- Trained 8 Foresters for Urban Forest Health Monitoring data collection
- Trained 8 Foresters for Ozone data collection

Ongoing activities

- Accomplish required training and certifications
- Data collection for FIA Phase 2, 3, Urban Forest health Monitoring, and Ozone plots

Planned activities 2006

- Measure appropriate number of FIA Phase 2, 3, Urban FHM and Ozone plots

FOREST DATA AND TECHNOLOGY – GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Mission: Analyze and present information in visual (map) form that assists in making resource decisions.

The Geographic Information Systems section provides output of collected data. Data from each of the core businesses is compiled and processed into visual formats.

Major accomplishments in 2005

- Produced Gypsy Moth trap location maps
- Produced Forest Legacy project maps
- Produced insect & disease occurrence maps

Ongoing activities

- Collect tree improvement stand location data and enter into the GIS System
- Produce insect & disease occurrence maps
- Maintain nursery inventory program
- Maintain fire reporting system

Planned activities for 2006

- Secure color-IR aerial photos statewide of urban canopy cover
- Produce insect & disease occurrence maps

FOREST BUSINESS UNIT

The mission of the Forest Business Unit is to *provide support for the Tennessee forest industry and forest-based businesses and provide data to characterize Tennessee forest products.*

The goal of the Forest Businesses Unit is to improve Tennessee's forest resources by facilitating linkages between sellers and buyers and promoting value-adding industry. The Division's Forest Businesses program provides descriptive data about and for the forest products industry in Tennessee; technical assistance to forest products businesses or forest landowners; assistance in recruiting or establishment of forest products businesses in the state and analysis to aid understanding of the forest resource.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Filled Forest Business Program Specialist vacancy
- Resumed publishing of the Forest Products Bulletin for 4th Qtr 2005, a statewide log price report for landowners and Division staff
- Began survey to update the 1999 Forest Products Directory

Ongoing activities

- Survey of primary and secondary forest industry through TDF field people
- Assist forest businesses in export and domestic marketing
- Produce analyses of forest and forest related data

Planned activities for 2006

- Complete industry survey and make directory available to the public
- Publish the quarterly Forest Products Bulletin
- Identify needs and develop an action plan for TDF help for the Tennessee forest industry
- Provide marketing, productivity and/or analysis help for forest based startups

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH UNIT

The mission of the Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit is to *communicate clearly and accurately to our publics forestry information necessary to accomplish the Division's mission and optimize in-house communications*. The Environmental Affairs & Public Outreach Unit also administers the Division's Information and Education program.

The Environmental Affairs and Public Outreach Unit seeks creative ways to provide outreach to the various publics in the State of Tennessee. One group that has received emphasis of late is the limited resource/underserved and minority landowner. This is being addressed through a partnership with the cooperative extension segment of the state's 1890 land grant institution, Tennessee State University, and U. S. Forest Service funding. Additionally, the unit seeks to foster greater collaboration with environmental advocacy groups to produce a climate for problem solving which will help to reduce unnecessary conflict in various arenas with favorable outcomes for all.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Developed Visual Quality guidelines for Tennessee – internal use booklet
- Developed key messages and position papers on topics such as BMP Compliance, and Timber Harvests & Flooding
- Staged a booth at the legislative plaza during the 2005 legislative session
- Participated in first landowner workshop for limited resource/underserved and minority landowners in Haywood County, TN
- Provided seedlings and staged a booth at the National Ag Day “Media Cook-off” at Ellington Ag center
- Developed outreach and communications plans

Ongoing activities

- Plan landowner workshops for limited resource/underserved and minority landowners in West Tennessee
- Plan focus group sessions for North Cumberland region in TN/KY as part of Southern Group of State Foresters Southern Roundtable Project
- Plan Media “rollout” event for the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment in Atlanta, GA in conjunction with the Communications committee of the Southern Group of State Foresters
- Plan a pilot project for the use of Biodiesel in the new TDF fireplows

Planned activities for 2006

- Conduct field days (walks in the woods) for local stakeholders/publics on various state forests
- Develop a GIS layer featuring areas of concern for visual quality management across the State of Tennessee

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC OUTREACH - INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Mission: To produce educational materials and provide forest resource information through a variety of media, and provide support to all Division programs in the dissemination of information to our publics.

The information and education program is essential in helping the general public understand forestry as a discipline and the role that the division plays in maintaining a healthy forest resource while providing a stream of essential ecological benefits to society. The program also helps to foster communication within the division, a critical function of a healthy organization.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Produced Urban Tree planting brochure
- Produced Tree Identification booklet
- Developed landowner guide brochure
- Continued publication of division-wide newsletter
- Conducted 56th annual Forestry Camp
- Coordinated the forestry portion of the annual Envirothon
- Produced Firewise display

Ongoing activities

- Develop forestry education website link with Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension
- Continue to update and revise information on TDF website
- Assist Urban Forestry program with Champion Trees and Arbor Day Poster Contest

Planned activities for 2006

- Develop a PowerPoint presentation and brochure chronicling the history of TDF
- Develop a brochure for TDF highlighting the division's core businesses
- Develop a silviculture pamphlet showcasing the TDF "toolbox" of forest practices

SAFETY AND TRAINING UNIT

The mission of the Safety and Training Unit is to *maximize Division employee effectiveness by coordinating logistics and tracking of safety and training programs.*

The Division stresses *safety first* in all program areas, providing the tools and techniques to help employees to work both effectively and safely. Employees are provided continuing education and training opportunities to provide them with the skills and knowledge to help them do their jobs better. In addition, new physical fitness standards will help the Division maintain a physically capable firefighting work force.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Tested new firefighters on the work capacity test
- Conducted a basic wildfire training academy for new employees
- Participated in the third annual Kentucky/Tennessee Wildfire Academy
- Maintained training database for all employees
- Developed training guides for Forestry Aide I, II and Forestry Technician positions
- Provided Insect and Disease Training for employees
- Continued training on new dozers and transports for operators
- Continued hardwood silviculture training for foresters
- Provided first aid, CPR, and defensive driving training
- Maintained safety records (OSHA 300)
- Coordinated safety inspections of facilities with TOSHA
- Investigated accidents and unsafe work practices

Ongoing activities

- Provide first aid, CPR, and defensive driving training
- Maintain safety records (OSHA 300)
- Maintain training database for all employees
- Coordinate safety inspections of facilities with TOSHA
- Investigate accidents and unsafe work practices

Planned activities for 2006

- Provide Initial Pesticide Certification Training for foresters in January
- Participate in the annual Kentucky/Tennessee Wildfire Academy in January
- Provide Insect and Disease Training for employees in January – February
- Train firefighters in the use of fire operations in the wildland-urban interface in February
- Provide Fire Prevention Education Training for firefighters in March
- Test new firefighters on the work capacity test in May and September
- Provide advanced silviculture training for foresters in July
- Conduct annual basic wildfire training academy for new employees in October
- Develop training guides for Forester I, II, and III positions

ADMINISTRATION

Administration is a support function to assist the State Forester in improving management effectiveness, the quality of customer services, the efficiency of operations, and the cost effectiveness of Division programs.

Spread across the State and administered from six district offices and one reforestation facility, the 330 employees of Agriculture's Forestry Division have responsibilities in nine separate programs. Effective planning, priority setting, and communication within the Division are crucial to organizational effectiveness. Assistant State Foresters along with the Budget & Planning Unit Leader work to refine systems to improve customer services and operational efficiencies.

Major accomplishments for 2005

- Established TRICOR as a supplier of employee uniforms
- Re-initiated an annual work planning process
- Gained access to some electronic accounting systems
- Completed construction of demonstration bridge
- Completed addition to District Six office
- Trained new staff in budgeting & accounting systems

Ongoing activities

- Improve work processes
- Manage budgets
- Improve performance measures and report quarterly

Planned activities for 2006

- Improve electronic connectivity of Area offices
- Increase the sharing of databases
- Manage budgets
- Document performance measures tied to performance based budgeting process

The State of Tennessee policy of non-discrimination

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service in its policies or in the admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs, services, or activities.

If you seek more information or feel that you have been treated unfairly in regard to the State's services or hiring practices, contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, EEO/AA/ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 40627 Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204, 615-837-5115.

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